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June 13, 2014

State Public
Charter School Commission
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Subject: Halau Lokahi

Dear Chairperson and Commission members:

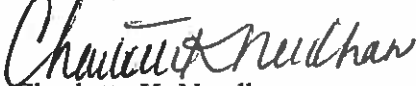
This letter is in support of Halau Lokahi New Century Public Charter School. I and the Maunalaha Community had the honor and privilege of helping to support and found a "safe place of learning." The name chosen was Halau Lokahi, a school of Harmony. It is a school based on a positive and supportive environment of learning. The school creates a safe environment and place to nurture the growth of Native Hawaiian children to become strong upright members of the community.

This letter supports their efforts through these past 14 years. It is one of the original 12 Native Hawaiian Charter Schools granted a charter. It was also a part of the Na Lei Naauao Alliance of Charter Schools. To see the efforts and commitment of so many families, students, parents, teachers, communities, charter schools, state agencies and many, many others be in vain by closing the school.

We request to allow Halau Lokahi to remain open. We humbly ask that you work with Halau Lokahi in granting an extension allowing the school time to reorganize its finances during this summer session. This would allow the school administration working with the board members time to rebuild capacity, reorganize its structure, fundraise and seek funding sources before starting the new school year 2014-15.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 861-1057. I am available to give testimony in person as well.

Mahalo,



Charlotte K. Needham
Maunalaha Valley Community Association

Na Mamo o Makiki (501c3)

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

HĀLAU LŌKAHI; This is where my middle and youngest children graduated from Tiane & Kealaula. Without this school and the dedicated Parents and Teachers who started this, one of the first CHARTER Schools in Hawai'i, my children, ohana and me, would'nt be where we are now! The dedicated Parents and Teachers; anake Larra "Kumu Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu and Kumu Kalani Kalima" to name just a few opened my children's EYE'S and NA'AU to a whole new way of learning, caring, respecting, sharing and perpetuating, not only in themselves but others around them My Daughter Tiane's dream was to be a teacher when she was 3 years old, they both did excellent in public grade school, but from 7th grade on both lost the love of learning or being taught what they were shoving down the children's throat's as EDUMACATION, to the point of not turning in homework, Cutting Class, and Flunking. Those same children when starting Hālau Lōkahi did a 180% degree change in life, thoughts, culture and caring about themselves and others! Both Grad first in their class my Daughter's (Tiane) dream came true, now being a Teacher at Hālau Lōkahi and my Son (Kealaula) who helps the school anyway he can, but also continued his learning along with his love of music to be in two awesome bands Kapu System, Humble Soul and works a fulltime job on top of that.

Mahalo

Pono Kealoha

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#)

Hawaiian Public Charter School will be featured on national PBS program

deanhamer@aol.com

To: [Sylvia Silva](#)

Friday, June 13, 2014 11:23 AM

Aloha e Sylvia

I thought you and the Commissioners would want to be aware of this as you consider the future of Halau Lokahi. It would be a shame to close down what will soon be the best known PCS in the state.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dean-hamer-and-joe-wilson/to-educate-a-nation-video_b_5490434.html

Mahalo

Dean Hamer
KUMU HINA
QWaves Films in association with
[Pacific Islanders in Communications](#) and [ITVS](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Trailer](#)

Subject: Testimony for June 18 General Meeting of Public Charter School Commission: Re Halau Lokahi
Date: Friday, June 13, 2014 3:42:59 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time
From: deanhamer@aol.com
To: Sylvia Silva

Greetings,

Please enter the following statement as public testimony for the June 18 Public Charter School Commission meeting. It relates to the ongoing discussion of Halau Lokahi PCS. Thank you

I first visited Hālau Lōkahi Public Charter School three years ago as part of a PBS documentary film project with ITVS and Pacific Islanders in Communications.

The school is not much to look at from the outside. Located in an industrial area, just off the busy Nimitz highway in the Kalihi neighborhood, there is no fancy gym or chapel, cultural classes are held in a warehouse, and the young students must be escorted by teachers to avoid the many trucks and forklifts traversing the area.

But inside was a different matter. The students were intent, animated, and genuinely excited about learning in a way I have never before witnessed in the many different schools that I have filmed in across the continental United States. And not only were they pursuing the usual reading, writing and arithmetic in English, they were simultaneously learning about their own culture through the time consuming, painstaking acquisition of lengthy oli and mo'olelo in the Hawaiian language.

Over the course of making our documentary, which focuses on the work of the school's cultural director, Kumu Hina, I gradually realized what makes Hālau Lōkahi unique: its insistence that the students understand who they are not just as individuals, but as part of a people and a community with deep roots in the traditions, culture, principles and values of Hawai'i.

Despite its many successes, Hālau Lōkahi has recently run into serious economic difficulties. This is no surprise: the school receives only \$6000 per pupil from the state as compared to \$12,000 per pupil for DOE schools, and furthermore they are responsible for the considerable expense of renting space since DOE provides no physical facilities. It's almost as if the DOE Charter School Commission *want* sHawaiian charter schools to fail – which perhaps should be no surprise given the sort of independent thinking espoused by visionary educators such as Principal Allbrett.

Fortunately, there is a potential solution to the Charter School Commission's demand that the school work with stakeholders to develop a viable financial plan. When Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a direct descendant of Kamehameha the Great, passed away in 1884, her will established a trust specifically dedicated to the education of Hawaiian children. That trust, now known as Kamehameha Schools, currently has a value of over \$10 billion, the income from which could easily make-up for the discrepancy between charter and DOE funding for every Hawaiian student in the state. Furthermore the trust owns the land on which Hālau Lōkahi sits, so it could solve the problem of lease payments immediately.

I strongly urge the Commission to consider and facilitate in any possible way such a collaboration.

Soon the entire United States will learn about Halau' Lokai through the national PBS broadcast of our documentary KUMU HINA. People across the country will learn, many for the first time, about what makes Hawai'i unique, and how culture-based education empowers student to be all they can be by understanding where they come from. It's important that Hālau Lōkahi still be there to receive the attention it deserves.

With the national PBS broadcast of KUMU HINA, people across the country will learn, many for the first time, about what makes Hawai'i unique, and how culture-based education empowers student to be all they can be by understanding where they come from. It's important that Hālau Lōkahi still be there to receive the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Dean Hamer
58-125 C Iwila Place
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
Scientist Emeritus, National Institutes of Health
Director, Qwaves Documentaries



KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'ŌHANA

Serving and perpetuating sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha

COMMISSION TESTIMONY

June 12, 2014 Continuation Meeting Scheduled for June 18, 2014

Agenda Item VIII: Action on Financial Insolvency of Hālau Lōkahi Charter School

Date: June 17, 2014

To: Catherine Payne, Chairperson - Charter School Commission
Peter Tomozawa – Vice Chairperson Commission
Members of the Commission

From: Katie Benioni, CFO

Cc: Ka'iulani Pahio, Nā Lei Na'auao
Lynn Finnegan, HCSN
Tom Hutton, Executive Director

KALO is willing to provide CMO Business Services per the scope below to implement and ensure compliance with a potential Commission Corrective Action Plan for Hālau Lōkahi Public Charter School.

“CMO Hawaiian Style”

Business Service Charter Management Organization (CMO)

CMOs play an important part in the scalability of the charter school movement by enabling the replication of models that work, creating economies of scale, encouraging collaboration between similar schools, and building support structures for schools by providing back-office functions and provide a wider range of services (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2011).

KALO has supported KANU and other Charter Schools on and off throughout the years with outsourced auxiliary services and technical support. These services were provided in order to achieve an economy of scale and organizational capacity. This level of support has brought stability for the finance, risk management, technology, site management and human resource elements of school business and ensured there was consistent adequacy of resources during fluctuating times. The following CMO business services offer is created working within the language of the current State of Hawaii Charter School Bilateral Contract Exhibit C, Item #3, contractual obligations for educational service provider requirements. This clarifies that no provision of an agreement shall interfere with the duty of the governing board to exercise its statutory, contractual and fiduciary responsibility to govern the operation of the school.



KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'ŌHANA

Serving and perpetuating sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha

CMO Business Services

Accounting, Payroll & Finance

- Internal Control development and review including accounting processes and procedures
- Recording and Monitoring of Revenues
- Development and Implementation of Accounting Systems (including software selection and setup)
- Accounts payable & receivable
- Month-end and year-end account reconciliations
- Payroll processing
- Financial reporting
- Budgets & cash flow projections
- Board financial presentations
- Commission financial reporting

Charter Development & Governance

- Support with loan & grant applications
- Charter contracts monitoring
- Initial planning budgets & cash flows
- Fiscal planning

Compliance & Other Services

- Audit preparation & support
- Compliance reporting to state grantors
- Quarterly & annual filings of tax forms

These CMO contracted business services would need to be based on a multiyear arrangement to secure the appropriate financial and human resources necessary. Estimated costs are anticipated at 8-12% of the entities annual income. Additional specific costs for remediation efforts or specific corrective action plan compliance and reporting agreements which may include penalties and debt or contract restructuring will be determined case by case.

Any other assistance would need to be requested by the school community with clear roles and responsibilities outlined and vetted to ensure appropriateness of roles and compliance.

Nā Lei Na'auao
Ph: #808-887-1117
Fax: #808-887-0030
NLN@kalo.org

NĀ LEI NA'AUAO

NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHARTER SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Hakipu'u Learning Center
Kāne'ohe, O'ahu

June 17, 2014

To: Catherine Payne, Chairperson – Charter School Commission
Peter Tomozawa – Vice Chairperson – Charter School Commission
Members of the Charter School Commission

Hālau Kū Mana
Honolulu, O'ahu

From: Ka'iulani Pahi'ō – Coordinator – Nā Lei Na'auao – Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance

Hālau Lōkahi
Honolulu, O'ahu

CC: Tom Hutton – Executive Director – Charter School Commission Office

Kanu i ka Pono
Anahola, Kaua'i

RE: The State Public Charter School Commission: General Business Meeting
Agenda for Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at noon. Item #VI. Executive Session – B.
Financial Insolvency of Hālau Lōkahi Public Charter School

Welina mai,

Kanu o ka 'Āina
Kamuela, Hawai'i

The mission of Nā Lei Na'auao – Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance (NLN) is to establish models of education throughout the Hawaiian Islands, which are community-designed and controlled and reflect, respect and embrace Hawaiian cultural values, philosophies and ideologies.

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo
Hilo, Hawai'i

Throughout the years, despite many financial challenges, the Hawaiian-Focus Public Charter School's (HFPCS) have been able to survive to ensure the best possible education for our native students. Humble sacrifices and dedicated commitment from the Administrators and Staff has kept the school's doors open for many of our needy families. Despite a lack of facilities, as well as being located in some of Hawai'i's most impoverished areas, HFPCS's have successfully thrived. Although Hawai'i's charter school law mandates the HDOE to establish a system of technical support to provide a baseline for success, these schools continue to suffer a lack of systemic support and funding, receiving significantly smaller per pupil allocations than other public schools. Yet, despite the obvious and ongoing inequities, HFPCS's are being credited as viable educational models, which are making significant contributions to Native Hawaiian education.

Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Kawaikini PCS
Līhue, Kaua'i

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Kāne'ohe, O'ahu

It is with EA-Education with Aloha, that we can collectively stand proud of who we are and what we have been able to accomplish, despite the imposed shortfalls. This feeling of Aloha permeates all HFPCS's and has been identified by the students themselves as the defining factor for their sudden significant successes in education. Because an entire learning 'ohana or family of learners cares about them, students begin to care not just about themselves and their future, but also about the things around them. They begin to care about their families and communities, their native culture and the environment.

Ke Kula Ni'ihau 'o Kekaha
Kekaha, Kaua'i

Kua o ka Lā
Pāhoa, Hawai'i

Kula Aupuni Ni'ihau A Kahelelani Aloha
Makaweli, Kaua'i

Along with other HFPCS's throughout the State of Hawai'i, Hālau Lōkahi has managed to provide for a positive and innovative K-12 learning environment, which supports and promotes Hawaiian language, culture, values and traditions, not just for their own students, but for the wider native community as well. Thank you for supporting HFPCS's today and for our future generations!

Mahalo,
Ka'iulani Pahi'ō